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*For the month of September.*HABANA, CUBA, *October 4, 1897.*

SIR: The following report for the month of September is respectfully submitted:

The office of the Service is now located in the finest building in Habana, and it has been neatly furnished. The consul-general of the United States has his offices in the same building, which expedites much of the work of the Service.

The work of this office has fallen off during the past month, and the following table will show the movement of vessels and the number of passengers and crew going to the United States:

Class.	Ameri- can.	British.	Span- ish.	Norwe- gian.	Total.
Steamers.....	23	4	11	1	39
Barks.....	1		1		2
Schooners.....	6				6
Total .....	30	4	12	1	47

  

Passengers inspected.....	395
Crew inspected.....	1,876
Total persons.....	2,271

Assistant Sanitary Inspector Dudley reported for duty on Saturday, September 11, and his services have been of value ever since, it being impossible for one man to perform the work of the Service here in a proper manner without overtaxing his strength. This the writer knows from practical experience during the past two months. The inspection of a vessel and of its crew takes some little time, and often causes opposition from the masters of vessels. There is an inclination on the part of several ship agents to dictate the policy of the Service.

The American schooner *John C. Smith*, after lying at the Tallapiedra Wharf for three weeks, left this port for Brunswick, Ga., with 1 man sick with a suspicious fever, and the vessel was ordered to the National Quarantine Station at Tortugas.

The scarcity of animal food has compelled the authorities to allow the importation of cattle, and efforts are being made to bring them from ports on the west coast of Florida from New Orleans and Galveston.

The parties engaged in this business live here and have besieged this office with requests to permit unrestricted trade, especially with the Florida ports, and they apparently can not understand why their business should be interfered with by the quarantine regulations of the United States, and are prone to express freely their ideas of our quarantine affairs, which are not flattering, and some of them can not understand why for a consideration an unrestricted trade can not be established.

This trade will assume some proportions within a few weeks, and the greatest care should be observed in treating these vessels. The vessels must become filthy and they must discharge the cattle at some wharf, preferably on the Habana side, as the abattoirs are on this side of the harbor. Should these vessels go to the wharves at Regla, on the opposite side of the harbor, it is also dangerous, as the two military hospitals in that town are near the wharves, and there are always several hundred cases of yellow fever in them. From the mortality table attached to

this report it will be noticed that there were more deaths in those two hospitals from yellow fever than occurred in the city of Habana.

There is nothing new to say about the bad sanitary condition of the city. It is worse than I have ever seen it since my arrival here on May 1 of the present year.

In spite of the heavy rains which deluge the streets, running over the sidewalks in many places, the city appears to contain more filth than ever. It is impossible to properly describe the absolute want of sanitary measures, the absolute disregard of health laws.

The waters of the bay are reeking with the filth poured into it from the city, and every vessel leaving here for the United States should be regarded with suspicion when said vessel has remained over twenty-four hours in this harbor.

I am more convinced than ever that this city is a constant menace to the health of the United States, and will remain so until modern medical science shall be employed to remedy the evils that have existed here for nearly two centuries.

*Infectious and contagious diseases.*—It is a difficult task to obtain correct data concerning the existence of epidemic diseases. The methods of preparing statistics are so different from those in vogue in other countries, and the manner of classifying diseases so peculiar, that no known nomenclature can be followed. In preparing the mortality table I have endeavored to make it as intelligible as possible.

*Yellow fever.*—As stated in my reports and communications of the past few weeks, I ascertained that there were other hospitals outside of the city of Habana which had been established by the Spanish Government, hence the number of cases of yellow fever occurring in the hospitals of the city had decreased and also the number of deaths in proportion.

I have also discovered that the deaths from this disease occurring in the hospitals at Regla were not included in the number reported during the past few months.

The town of Regla is situated across the harbor from Habana, and there are two large military hospitals containing about 2,000 patients. This town is nearer to the vessels in the harbor than Habana is, and I have prepared a table of the deaths occurring there and it is submitted below.

It will be seen that of 179 deaths occurring in Habana and Regla, the greater number, 104, occurred in the latter place. Of the 75 deaths in Habana, 67 occurred in the military hospitals and 8 among the civilians.

*Smallpox.*—There were 5 deaths during the month, all of them among the civilians, and with the approach of cold weather the disease will again become more prevalent, although there have been such extensive vaccinations that the disease can hardly assume the same proportions it did last winter.

*Beriberi.*—It will be seen that there were 3 deaths from this disease, a fact I did not discover until a few days ago, although I made an inspection of the Chinese quarters. The 3 deaths were among the Chinese; and I could find but 3 cases, none of which were fatal. The disease is not spreading rapidly, but a weekly inspection will be made of the Chinese quarters hereafter.

*Malarial fevers of malignant natures abound.*—There were 135 deaths in Habana from what are termed here cachexia paludica, paludisma, pernicious fever, remittent fever, etc. Intestinal diseases are carrying off scores of people, and the table of mortality will show the enormous

death rate from enteritis, dysentery, and diarrhea both in Habana and Regla. Many of these diseases occur from improper food, and the situation is growing worse every day.

There are 14 deaths directly attributable to starvation, which is, I would estimate, about one-third the actual number of deaths from that cause; and the next few weeks will show a more distressing condition of affairs. Just opposite to the office of the Service a wholesale grocery firm gives a pittance of rice to all who apply for it, twice a week. Hundreds of thin, emaciated people drag themselves there to partake of the bounty, and it is a gruesome sight to observe the condition, or rather lack of physical condition, of the crowd. Your attention is invited to the following figures of the deaths from intestinal diseases for the past six months, the total deaths from all causes, and the annual ratio per thousand for each month. This table will thoroughly exemplify what I have stated above, and yet it is only fair to say that the figures for September are more nearly correct than those of the other five months:

Months.	Deaths from intestinal diseases.	Deaths from all causes.	Annual ratio per 1,000.
April.....	164	1,062	63.32
May.....	126	1,015	60.90
June.....	143	1,041	62.46
July.....	171	1,193	71.52
August.....	291	1,439	86.34
September .....	411	1,778	106.68

Unless the conditions that have existed here for some time are changed, there is every reason to believe that the death rate will continue to increase in the proportion given above.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,

*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Mortality of the city of Habana and town of Regla for the month of September, 1897.*

Diseases.	Habana.	Regla.	Total.
Yellow fever .....	75	104	179
Typhoid fever .....	56	22	78
Malarial fevers .....	135	59	194
Smallpox .....	5	0	5
Diarrhea .....	35	3	38
Dysentery .....	128	39	167
Enteritis .....	248	26	274
Beriberi .....	3	0	3
Starvation .....	14	0	14
Diphtheria .....	2	0	2
Glanders .....	2	0	2
Pneumonia .....	11	0	11
Tuberculosis .....	159	0	159
Total deaths from all causes.....			1,778
Annual ratio per 1,000.....			106.68